

Claims:

1. Isolated DNA encoding a protein having an N-terminal domain, a DNA-binding domain and a ligand-binding domain, wherein the amino acid sequence of said DNA-binding domain of said protein exhibits at least 80% homology with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and the amino acid sequence of said ligand-binding domain of said protein exhibits at least 70% homology with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.
2. Isolated DNA according to claims 1, characterized in that the amino acid sequence of said DNA-binding domain of said protein exhibits at least 90%, preferably 95%, more preferably 98%, most preferably 100% homology with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3.
3. Isolated DNA according to claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the amino acid sequence of said ligand-binding domain of said protein exhibits at least 75%, preferably 80%, more preferably 90%, most preferably 100% homology with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.
4. Isolated DNA according to claims 1 to 3, said DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:25.
5. Isolated DNA according to claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said DNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20 or SEQ ID NO:24.
6. A recombinant expression vector comprising the DNA according to any of the claims 1 to 5.

7. A cell transfected with DNA according to claims 1 to 5 or an expression vector according to claim 6.
8. A cell according to claim 7 which is a stable transfected cell line which expresses the steroid receptor protein according to any of the claims 9 to 11.
9. Protein encoded by DNA according to claims 1 to 5 or an expression vector according to claim 6.
10. Protein according to claim 9, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:25.
11. Chimeric protein having an N-terminal domain, a DNA-binding domain, and a ligand-binding domain, characterized in that at least one of said domains of said chimeric protein originates from a protein according to claims 9 or 10, and at least one of the other domains of said chimeric protein originates from another receptor protein from the nuclear receptor superfamily, provided that the DNA-binding domain and the ligand-binding domain of said chimeric protein originates from different proteins.
12. DNA encoding a protein according to claim 11.
13. Use of a DNA according to claims 1 to 5 or 12, an expression vector according to claim 6, a cell according to claim 7 or 8 or a protein according to claim 9 to 11 in a screening assay for identification of new drugs.

14. A method for identifying functional ligands for the protein according to claims 9 to 11, said method comprising the steps of

- a) introducing into a suitable host cell 1) DNA according to claims 1 to 5 or 12, and 2) a suitable reporter gene functionally linked to an operative hormone response element, said HRE being able to be activated by the DNA-binding domain of the protein encoded by said DNA;
- b) bringing the host cell from step a) into contact with potential ligands which will possibly bind to the ligand-binding domain of the protein encoded by said DNA from step a);
- c) monitoring the expression of the protein encoded by said reporter gene of step a).